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17 April 1957

BACKGROUND AND GENERAL NATURE OF BRIEFING
ON
IMPORTANCE OF UNCLASSIFIED STRATEGIC INFORMATION

1. The Presidential policy on keeping unclassified strategic information from reaching the Soviet Union has been implemented primarily through the Office of Strategic Information of the Department of Commerce, two committees set up under Commerce (one on publications and one on exchange of publications) and a committee under the Bureau of the Budget (on statistical security). There have been recent pressures to reduce certain aspects of this program and the over-all Presidential policy is now to be reviewed by a panel of high level consultants—understood to be primarily publishers and editors.

2. These consultants are to be briefed on various aspects of the problem on or about 30 April 1957, by the FBI, the Department of State, the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security, and by CIA. A 45-minute briefing—coordinated by ORR for the DD/I area—is to be prepared by a.o.b. 24 April. By instruction of Mr. Amory, this briefing is to be directed toward two subjects, as follows:

a. What is the need of the Soviet Union for material presently available to it from the United States in unclassified form in the following fields?

- (1) Geographic?
- (2) Industrial economics?
- (3) Scientific?

What use is presently made by the Soviet Union of such materials, and how important are these materials in the total Soviet picture? Particular consideration should be given to unclassified materials whose release and circulation is or could be made relatively limited—so that the question of at least partial denial of such materials to the Soviets might be practically considered.

b. To what extent is corresponding information and data on the Soviet Union available to us, and what types of information are denied or difficult to obtain?

- (1) Geographic?
- (2) Industrial economics?
- (3) Scientific?


For example, in recent months we have received certain statistical handbooks which provide certain types of information but omit other important categories.

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3. An outline (with suggestive questions) for a DCI-type briefing paper must be completed by tomorrow night (Thursday), for submission to all appropriate divisions and branches in OSI, OCR, and ERA and GRA of ORR. Working Group members of these offices are asked to submit coordinated contributions from their respective offices by c.o.b., Monday, April 22. Selectivity and brevity are essential since the number of examples could obviously be multiplied far beyond what can be covered in 45 minutes.

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- 2 -

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